THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board is continuously engaged in the task of studying the problems of the Indian Tobacco industry. The main problems affecting the sector at present are the impact of the international anti-smoking campaign and the increased competition for Indian exporters from countries such as Chine, Brazil and Zimbabwe and the trend of over-production in recent years.

(c) The steps taken to explore new markets include, *inter alia*, participation in international tobacco exhibitions and fairs, advertisement compaigns in international tobacco journals and organisation of trade delegations to and from important tobacco importing nations. During the current year, an Indian Tobacco delegation has visited Egypt, Turkey, Romania and Russia, while delegations from Morocco and Greece have visited India.

Transfer rules of STC

1366. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules/regulatios governing transfer of employees/ staff of STC, corporate office, New Delhi;

(b) whether as per the Memorandum of Settlement signed between Management and the Federation of STC employees union, transfer can be ordered only on request made by employees;

(c) if so, whether some transfer orders have been issued last month in utter violation of all norms/rules governing transfer;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take against the officer responsible for issuing illegal orders; and

(e) by when transfer orders would be revoked/cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Employees, appointed in the Corporation are basically to be governed by the terms and conditions including transfer as per the appointment letter which *inter-alia* provides that both Managers as well as Staff are liable for transfer in any branch office/its subsidiaries. Transfer orders of Managers are issued as per the

laid down transfer policy and administrative needs.

(b) The Memorandum of Settlement signed between Management and the Federation of STC Employees' Union does not contain any clause about transfer.

(c) No such transfer orders have been issued in violation of the rules.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Tobacco Research Centre in Karnataka

1367. SHRI H. K. JAVERE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka produces best quality Virginia tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production in the State during the last three years;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned by export of tobacco during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to establish a Research Centre for tobacco growth in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco produced in Karnataka is classified as neutral filler. The data on production in the State over the past three years is as follows:—

Year	Production (million kilograms)
1999-2000	45.21
2000-2001	41.98
2001-2002	57.68

(c) The foreign exchange generated by export of tobacco and tobacco products over the past three years is as follows: